



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

December 21, 2009

5:30 p.m., 6th Floor Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 4

David Turner, James Tolbert, Luis Ruiz, Osvaldo Velez

Members Absent: 3

Brian Wickstrom, Richard Falvo, Ralph Cloud

Member Vacancies: 2

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Joe Rodriguez, Recreation Services Manager, Ray Alvarado, Recreation Program Supervisor, Lucy Calderon, Recording Secretary

Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Turner began the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Henry Stokes, former Parks and Recreation Advisory member who passed away November 25, 2009.

Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: November 16, 2009

Motion by James Tolbert to approve the November 16, 2009 minutes as written. Second by Luis Ruiz. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public

None.

Agenda Item #4. Parks and Recreation Staff Announcements and Recognitions

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, reminded the board about the reference manual distributed at the November meeting. New information will periodically be distributed and members should conduct page substitutions in their manuals. A revised copy of the By-Laws was distributed. Ms. Smejkal highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. She announced the vacancy of the Park Superintendent due to Sam Calhoun's resignation. Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, will handle Sam Calhoun's duties until position is filled. Mr. Luis Ruiz was thanked for giving a speech at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on behalf of the board.

Agenda Item #5. Discussion and Action: Recommendation by Naming Subcommittee to Name a Room at San Juan Senior Center and to Place a Plaque on Exterior Wall of San Juan Senior Center in Honor of Mrs. Marina Rios.

Jim Tolbert with the Park Naming Subcommittee stated that the presentation in September by the Neighborhood Association was outstanding and the proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Subcommittee to recommend approval to the full board.

Basilio Valenzuela, member of the San Juan Senior Center Advisory Council, stated he favored the plaque outside San Juan Senior Center but is against having a room named after Marina Rios. Mr. Valenzuela stated that he has fought for projects at San Juan Senior Center along with other volunteers and feels that Marina Rios was not very active at the center.

Sergio de la Rosa, son of Marina Rios and applicant, discussed the community activities Ms. Rios was active in including teaching English at the San Juan Senior Center.

Fred Borrego, President of San Juan Neighborhood Improvement Association, stated that the Association and its members took a vote this year to recognize Marina Rios. The suggested plaque outside the placita is not only for Ms. Rios but for other outstanding citizens. He stated that they want to name the big hall at San Juan Senior in honor of Ms. Rios.

Ray Alvarado, Director of San Juan Senior Center, stated that he attended the Subcommittee meeting and his understanding was to name the mirror room where meetings were held. Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, also stated that the large room was not discussed.

Motion by Luis Ruiz to postpone item until January meeting and have Parks and Recreation staff conduct a meeting at San Juan Senior Center regarding naming a specific room at San Juan Senior Center in honor of Marina Rios. Second by Jim Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Proposed Recognition of Henry Stokes, Past Chair and Member of Board of Parks and Recreation.

James Tolbert stated he would like to have a tournament or award named after Henry Stokes.

Motion by James Tolbert that staff bring suggestions to the board of tournaments or awards that can be named in honor of Mr. Henry Stokes. Second by Luis Ruiz. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item #7. Presentation and Discussion: Proposed Youth Program Plan

Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, gave a Power Point Presentation on proposed Youth Program Plan in development. Ms. Weiss reminded the board that any new programs are contingent upon new funding.

Agenda Item #8. Discussion: Installation of Band Shells

Osvaldo Velez stated that he would like to see installation of Band Shells at Parks for school band events and other park events.

Nanette Smejkal stated that San Jacinto Plaza has a stage where live music is performed. For specific amenities, the master plan guides the priorities the community has requested. At this time the goals are swings and playgrounds in all parks. Once the high priorities are met specialized amenities can be considered. The 2011 Bond is an option for funding new amenities. Judy Weiss discussed a mobile stage as an option to a constructed band shell.

Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)

Motion by Luis Ruiz to nominate David Turner to the Park Naming Subcommittee. Second by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Minutes December 21, 2009

Park Naming	Tree Board	Grievance
Osvaldo Velez	James Tolbert	Ralph Cloud
James Tolbert	David Turner	Richard Falvo
David Turner		Luis Ruiz
		Brian Wickstrom

Agenda Item #10. Discussion and Action: January Meeting

Motion by Luis Ruiz to hold the January Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting one week later on January 25, 2010 due to City Holiday. Second by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item #11. Discussion: Items for Future Agendas

Tree Subcommittee Report, update on Activenet automation project, and process for the 2011 Bond Issue.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Senior Secretary, Lucy Calderon